WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Merger of Coast Guard in other wings of Navy

1305. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coast Guard is working as a separate entity apart from the Naval Forces;

(b) whether there is any proposal to merge the Coast Guard with other wings of the Navy;

(c) whether it is a fact that better qualified and motivated personnel can be sent on deputation from the Navy to the Coast Guard; and

(d) the steps proposed to effect such a merger to improve the Coast Guard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Provisions exist for deputation of personnel from Navy to the Coast Guard.

(d) Does not arise.

Firing by Sri Lankan Navy on Indian Fishermen

1306. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sri Lankan Navy is patrolling the waters around Kachatheevu Island, indulging in firing at our fishermen, against the Kachatheevu agreement;

(b) the steps taken by the Indian Navy to protect Indian fishermen; and

(c) will Government press our Navy to patrol around Kachatheevu to safeguard the lives and boats of our fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Kachatheevu Island located in the Palk Bay was handed over to Sri Lanka by India in 1974, through an Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. This